



## MONTANA GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON HISTORIC AND CULTURAL PROPERTIES

### REPORT TO THE 60TH LEGISLATURE 2007

On August 15, 2005 Governor Schweitzer signed Executive Order 18 creating a seven-member Historic and Cultural Advisory Council. Chaired by Lt. Governor John Bohlinger, the Council was charged with studying the benefits of historic preservation and formulating recommendations to the Governor and the 2007 Legislature concerning the State of Montana's policies on the preservation of publicly-owned historic buildings. The Council also identified opportunities for communities to use historic preservation as an economic development tool.

# GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND KEY FINDINGS

### The State of Montana values its heritage assets.

In 1999, the State of Montana raised \$25 million to restore the Montana Capitol. The Montana Legislature in 1997 committed \$8 million dollars to acquire Virginia & Nevada Cities. They now have an appraised market value of \$30 million. This early investment has reached 4 times its original value, and we have an obligation to the people of Montana to protect these valued assets.

### Preservation of these public assets requires public investment.

We must be willing to invest funding to stabilize and preserve Montana's heritage properties in order to protect our investment and see it grow for the future.

### Historic preservation, state stewardship and heritage activities should reflect the best interests of Montana and its communities.

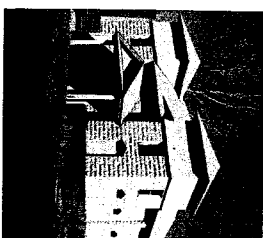
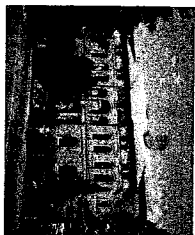
Preservation of public buildings such as schools, libraries and courthouses is directly linked to maintaining our quality of life and the identity of communities. State partnership with local community efforts through programs such as the Montana Main Street program and the Montana Courthouse Restoration bill is critical to the success of local efforts to preserve their heritage assets.

### The preferred course of action is preservation.

The State of Montana currently ranks 49th in state support for the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Policies such as fully funding the SHPO, developing an up-to-date inventory of state-owned heritage properties, and encouraging preservation statewide through local and cultural districts, a statewide revolving fund and local government bonding are in the interest of all Montanans.

### The Corpus of the Cultural Trust should be inviolate.

The Montana Cultural Trust issues grants to support arts and cultural activities in communities from Alzada to Yaak, and provides funds to support preservation at the local level. However, there is still much unmet need throughout Montana and the earnings from the Cultural Trust are able to fund only a handful of worthy preservation projects each year.



Preserving Montana's Heritage for the Next Generation

## A 2020 VISION FOR MONTANA

### STEWARDSHIP OF STATE HERITAGE PROPERTIES

We can create a lasting legacy for our children by preserving Montana's rich heritage. The Council developed strategies and policies that look to the year 2020 and beyond, providing much-needed funding and guidance for a state-wide stewardship program.

STRATEGY	FUNDING
<i>Preserve Montana Heritage</i> Virginia City: \$3 Million Bannack: \$1 Million	One-time Appropriations to Fund Critical Building Stabilization Needs
<i>Boost MT Cultural Trust</i> \$1.5 Million	One-time Appropriation to Increase Funding for Cultural & Arts Activities Across Montana
<i>Create Montana Legacy Program</i>	Expanded State Funding for Tourism and Heritage Programs

A 2020 VISION FOR MONTANA: POLICIES	
POLICY	STRATEGY
<i>Encourage State Stewardship</i>	Develop Policies that Encourage State Agencies to Maintain and Use Heritage Properties
<i>Partner with Educational Institutions</i>	Encourage University Participation in Preservation Projects throughout Montana
<i>Encourage Local Protection</i>	Support & Expand SHPO's Community Preservation Programs Encourage Local Cultural & Historic Districts
<i>Encourage Local Funding</i>	Authorize Local Bonding for Historic Preservation Establish Statewide Revolving Loan Program for Local Community Projects
<i>Montana Main Street Program</i>	Support Montana's new Main Street Program
<i>Montana Courthouse Restoration Bill</i>	Support Montana Counties' Efforts to Upgrade & Preserve Historic Courthouses

Heritage preservation is a comprehensive and effective way to plan, as well as stimulating local economies.